

CLAIMS

1. A process for the production of particulate detergents or premixes suitable for their production by application of a flowable acidic component to a particle consisting at least partly of an alkaline detergent ingredient,
5 the percentage of acidic component applied being governed by the formula $m_a/(m_c + m_p) = c \cdot 1/r$, where m_c is the weight of the acidic component, m_p is the weight of the particle, r is the radius of the particle and c is a factor of 0.5 length units to 20 length units.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the particle
10 consisting at least partly of an alkaline detergent ingredient has a radius r of 100 μm to 1,000 μm .
3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that c is a factor of 5 length units to 10 length units.
4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that
15 the acidic component is solid at room temperature and the application of the flowable acidic component is carried out at a process temperature above room temperature.
5. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the acidic component is applied to the particle over a period of 5 minutes to
20 20 minutes.
6. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the alkaline detergent ingredient is selected from the alkali metal silicates, alkali metal aluminosilicates, alkali metal phosphates, alkali metal carbonates, alkali metal perborates and alkali metal percarbonates and
25 mixtures thereof.
7. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the acidic component is selected from mono- or dicarboxylic acids containing 10 to 22 carbon atoms, sulfuric acid monoalk(en)yl esters containing 10 to 20 carbon atoms, alk(en)yl or alkylaryl sulfonic acids
30 containing 10 to 20 carbon atoms, polymeric polycarboxylic acids

obtainable by polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated mono- and/or dicarboxylic acids, such as acrylic acid, methacrylic acid and/or maleic acid, and mixtures thereof.

8. The use of the premix obtained by the process claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 as a detergent after mixing with at least one other particulate component.

9. The use claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the at least one other component contains at least one active ingredient of which the washing/cleaning effect is greater at a lower pH value than that established after dissolution of the alkali metal component present in the particle produced by the process claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 than it is at the pH value established during dissolution of the said particle.

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